(b) whether Government have since contemplated any fresh efforts to improve these amenities;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a three-member committee was set up to inspect passenger amenities provided at railway stations and on trains;

(d) if so, whether the committee have since submitted its report to Government; and

(e) if so, what are the details of the recommendations made by the committee and by when the same are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Amenities as per existing norms have been provided in the trains. Upgradation and improvement of facilities/amenities for the passengers is a continuous process. Some of the additional facilities provided in trains in the recent past include provision of cushions in Second Class sleeper coaches, water coolers in some trains, bed rolls in AC Sleeper coaches, Train Superintendants in some Super Fast trains, mobile train cleaning staff in selected trains increase in water tank capacity on B.G. Coahces from 1,272 litres to 1,820 litres, etc.

(c) A One-man Passenger Amenities Committee has been constituted by the Government.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Project on AIDS Control

38. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently finalised a project on AIDS control and prevention for the entire country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Health Organisation and USAID also propose to extend external funding support for AIDS control in India; and

(d) the manner in which Government propose to implement the scheme in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) Yes, the Government in consultation with WHO have prepared a Project document on AIDS Control, both at Central and State level. Financial assistance for this Project is being provided by World Bank. The components of this project are as under:—

—Improve blood safety and rational use.

—Promote public awareness and community support.

—Build surveillance and clinical management capacity.

—Control Sexually transmitted diseases.

—Strengthen Programme Management capacity.

(c) Government have prepared a Work Plan for Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Manipur, West Bengal, and Delhi under Medium Term Plan for prevention and Control of AIDS in India. The WHO is supporting these action plans activities by getting financial assistance from various Donor Agencies. The USAID is providing financial assistance to the tune of $ 1 3 millions in the form of equipments for up-grading 65 Blood testing centres.

(d) Government has proposed to strengthen surveillance of HIV and STD cases, screening of blood products and creation of awareness among the general public, etc.